

Outlook

The University of Maryland at College Park Faculty and Staff Weekly Newspaper • Volume 10 Number 17 • February 13, 1996

Charting the Black Saga

Family Stories Spark Geographer's Historical Quest



Charles Christian

If Charles Christian had his way there would be no Black History Month. No cramming a wealth of critical historical information into 28 days. For Charles Christian, Black history is so crucial that it deserves more attention.

"We jam-pack the month [February] with African-American history when, in fact, it ought to be sprinkled throughout the whole year," says Christian, an urban social geographer who has been with the university since 1973.

And he ought to know. You might say he wrote the book on it.

Christian is the author of "Black Saga: The African American Experience". The 600-page chronology covers everything from the Black man who joined Christopher Columbus's exploration in 1492 to the April 1994 Florida bill that established a \$1.5 million fund to pay the survivors of the 1923 Rosewood rampage.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Co. last November, the book is the compilation of thousands of stories that put into context how people, places and events in U.S. history influenced the experiences of African-American people.

Christian, who has lived in Maryland for more than two decades, says the book, "was probably deep inside of me," for many years. "When I was

going home every summer, I was struck by the stories that my mother would tell. I was captivated by them," he says. Christian also recalled the stories his grandfather had shared. "It struck me that all this was being lost," he says.

Born in Texas, Christian moved to Oklahoma when he was 6. He and his five brothers were raised by their mother in small towns like Black Jack and Jerusalem.

Living on his grandfather's multi-acre farm, Christian tilled the soil daily, milked the cows—"whatever was necessary." And on Saturdays, after the farm work was finished, he and his brothers would listen to the grandfather tell stories.

"He would sing songs, too," says Christian, although not songs that anyone could

remember. "They were not songs that you or I would know that were recorded."

When Christian and his brothers pressed the grandfather as to what he was saying, he often had a story. "And there may, in fact, be some truth to them, some relevance," he says.

Christian says he had no context for these tales. When his mother would tell her stories, Christian would question her as to what was happening or why it had taken place. "These stories were independent of everything else," he says. "After you pull together much of your history, you need to put it into a broader context and that's really where Black Saga essentially comes from."

The project was spearheaded and encouraged by his never-ending collection of data. As he gathered data and talked with his mother about the stories she had given him, Christian found that one story of the Black American experience led to another. "That's when I began to see the inaccuracies in the literature and I realized, 'I've got something here.'"

What he had was too many pages worth of material. Originally conceptualized as three parts—chronology, urban experience and statistical data—the book would have numbered 1,200 to 1,500 pages in length. The end result

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System to Develop Separate Retirement Plan

In a Feb. 8 meeting, state officials and representatives of the UM System agreed that separate legislation should be introduced to provide faculty with an early retirement option. Faculty had been excluded from Senate Bill 1, which provides an early retirement option for other state employees.

To ensure that the new legislation is given due consideration by all UMS institutions and the General Assembly, it will be introduced during the 1997 legislative session. The UMS legislation would allow greater flexibility for rehiring retirees on a part-time basis and for refilling vacated positions to accommodate anticipated increases in enrollment.

So that System staff can be accorded the same early retirement benefits as faculty, they will be included in the UMS legislation and amended out of Senate Bill 1. Chancellor Langenberg has indicated his intention to form a state-wide task force of faculty and staff to help design the new legislation to suit their needs.

Senate Considers Attendance Policy, Kirwan Addresses Planning Issues

Faculty soon may be permitted to require documented proof when a student misses an exam if a policy under consideration by the College Park Senate is approved.

An amendment to the Policy on Attendance and Assessments was introduced at the Feb. 5 meeting by Sen. Ira Block. But the senate did not vote on the changes because an insufficient number of members was present.

Significant changes to the policy include:

- Students claiming excused absence would be required to furnish documentary support of their claim.

- Students with excused absences would have the opportunity to reschedule significant assessments or to perform a substitute assignment without penalty.

- Permanent changes in the scheduling or location of classes would need to be approved by appropriate administrative officers.

- Instructors could give no less than seven calendar days notice when rescheduling assignments at other times and places. It would be the instructor's responsibility to ensure that the change does not interfere with any student's regularly scheduled classes or in-class final exams.

- In-class, written final exams would no longer be required; performance assessment could take a variety of forms.

The amendment should face a vote at the next senate meeting March 7.

During a question-and-answer session, Pres. William E. Kirwan voiced his thoughts on two issues that could affect employees: an early retirement plan

and the four-year funding plan.

Senate Bill No. 1, currently under consideration, would offer state employees over the age of 50 who have worked at an institution for 25 or more years an early retirement incentive of two additional months of pension for every year worked.

At the moment, people in the employee retirement or employee pension plans would be eligible—not faculty or some administrators.

According to Kirwan, "We are meeting with committee chairs with the objective of forming an amendment to the bill to include members of the teachers' retirement plan. The objective is to provide faculty with the option of participating in the early retirement system in a way that doesn't do damage to the university and its resources."

"If we do bring faculty into the plan," Kirwan added, "then the state has to show some flexibility in the terms in which they are brought in."

The bill, as written, recalls 60 percent of the resources of line positions, as well as 60 percent of the lines themselves. "So in effect," said Kirwan, "you're losing the line and the dollars associated with an individual."

The university would have to use the money from the people who left lines to pay for the plan. According to Kirwan, that's roughly 30 percent of line funds for a period of four to five years.

Although the state isn't allowing other agencies to keep the rest of the money, Kirwan said campus administrators are negotiating with the senate to allow the university to keep the extra funds.

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Couple Gets Hitched without Any Glitches

For Jennifer Doak, Friday, Feb. 2, looked like it was going to be one of those good news-bad news days. First, she awoke to learn snowfall had forced the closing of the campus. The bad news was there was more snow to come and Doak was due to get married at Memorial Chapel the next day.

Fortunately, Kevin Brown, assistant director of grounds maintenance called Doak with some cheering news. He informed the anxious bride that there were two priorities on his list for the following day: the men's basketball game at Cole Field House and her wedding at Memorial Chapel. The parking lots around the chapel would be cleared for her and her guests, he assured.

"It was wonderful. He put me at ease," says Doak, now Pitoniak, a senior special education major. She had been worried that her 115 guests would get to campus and not be able to park because of the eight inches of snow predicted to cover the ground.

Brown and his plowing crews worked wonders in clearing the roads, Lot Y and the sidewalks around the chapel, says Nick Kovalakides, campus visitor advocate. As a result, the wedding was able to go off without any problems.

During January's blizzard, however, two other couples were not as lucky. A wedding on Jan. 7 had to be canceled, while another had to be moved from Saturday, Jan. 13, to the following day, says Kovalakides. That marked the first time since Kovalakides began working at the chapel in 1993, that an event had been canceled because of weather.

Doak says that when she reserved the chapel in November, she noticed no other weddings were scheduled for February. She figured that people were afraid of snow.

"No, no, that won't happen to me," she says she thought to herself. And she was right. "Everything worked out great," she laughs.

—KATIE CASEY

Kirwan Travels to Thailand, Discusses Joint Program with Alumnus

Pres. William E. Kirwan recently returned from a week-long trip to Thailand where he met with distinguished international alumnus Adisai Bodharamik, chairman and chief executive officer of the Jasmine International Group. The two talked about developing a joint program between the university and Jasmine.

Kirwan was accompanied by William Destler, dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering; Marcus Franda, director of the Office of International Affairs; and Reid Crawford, vice president for institutional advancement. The group also was joined by electrical engineering professor Robert Newcomb, who counts Adisai and his wife, Pichani Bodharamik, among his former students.

Adisai, who graduated from the university in 1970 with a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, "wanted to give us an opportunity to see his extensive

telecommunications company," Kirwan says. "He was interested in joint research activities, technology transfer and training we might do under contract with Jasmine."

The subject of Jasmine employees coming to the University of Maryland to work on degrees was also discussed.

Kirwan notes that Adisai, who is Thailand's top leader in telecommunications, is very generous in expressing his appreciation to the university. "He attributes so much of his success to his education," he adds.

In 1982, Adisai established Jasmine International, a consortium of 15 companies with a market cap of \$6.6 billion. Together, the Jasmine companies share responsibility for a majority of the communications systems of Thailand.

Last September, Adisai visited the University of Maryland and received the first International Alumnus of the Year Award.

mony. Kirwan will also testify.

He pointed out that, at the moment, this is not the Regents' plan, it's just a draft that will be presented to them. "The Regents aren't implicated in any way."

In other business, College Park Senate members approved revisions to the Policy on Review of Academic Chairs and the Policy on Review of Academic Deans. The revisions represent the Faculty Affairs Committee's efforts to resolve remaining language inconsistencies in the policies, improving the economy of language and eliminate procedural detail that detracted from the campus-wide policy nature of the documents.

The senate also approved two departmental name changes: Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures will be changed to Germanic Studies, while Hebrew and East Asian Languages and Literatures will be changed to Asian and East European Languages and Cultures.

The next College Park Senate meeting will be Thursday, March 7, at 3:15 p.m. in Room 0200 of the Skinner Building.

—JANET CHISMAR

Survey Says Alumni are Well-Prepared and Working in Maryland

Ninety-five percent of alumni responding to a recent survey of UM System institution graduates favorably rated the preparation they received for the future. That's one key finding of a recent UMS survey of 1993 recipients of bachelor's degrees from the 11 degree-granting institutions. Among the survey's other highlights:

- 95 percent of respondents were working in full-time jobs one year after graduation; 91 percent were satisfied with their current jobs.
- Job satisfaction levels were particularly high among graduates in the fields of education (95 percent) and health (94 percent).
- 91 percent indicated that beyond the financial benefits of their degree from a UMS institution, their undergraduate education improved their quality of life.
- 80 percent of respondents who were employed full-time indicated that their jobs were directly related to their majors.
- Respondents earned a median salary of \$24,281, compared to \$15,374 reported by 1983 bachelor degree recipients—an 11 percent rise after inflation.
- 78 percent of 1993 UMS bachelor degree recipients live in Maryland; slightly more than one-third of respondents who were originally out-of-state students stayed in Maryland after graduating.

The survey was conducted jointly by UMS and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. A key element of the University System's ongoing accountability process, the survey is based on a poll of the 15,354 bachelor's degree recipients; the survey drew a 43 percent response rate.

Wellford Announces Open Forum to Examine APT Policy Revisions

Due to "the extraordinary nature" of proposed changes to Appointment, Promotion and Tenure (APT) policy, an open forum will be held Feb. 20, announces Charles Wellford, chair of the College Park Senate.

During the forum, scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall, the senate executive committee will receive comments on a draft of the changes.

The Board of Regents plan would eliminate job security for lecturers and instructors who have not yet been granted such security in their employment. The rank of instructor would be tenure-track, while appointment to the rank of lecturer would be a term appointment with no possibility of acquiring tenure.

Currently, 75 to 100 people would be affected.

According to Wellford, the administration has notified all instructors and lecturers of these changes and, for those without job security, indicated they would be offered a one-year

appointment for next year. This offer would be pending recommendations on a new policy by the College Park Senate and action by the president establishing how the campus would respond to these changes.

After the open forum on Feb. 20, the executive committee will meet to review all comments and, if appropriate, prepare a revised draft for consideration at the March 7 senate meeting.

Correction:

In the Feb. 6 edition of Outlook, Glenn Ricart's name was misspelled in "Linking the University and State in an Economic Development Partnership." Ricart was former head of the Computer Science Center.

College Park Senate Considers Changes

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Two hundred employees are currently eligible for early retirement. If faculty are included, another 500 people could participate.

As for the four-year, system-wide funding plan, Kirwan said he has voiced "some strong objections to the plan as it is currently drafted." The Board of Visitors has also written a letter of concern about the way College Park is treated.

The proposed plan states that two-thirds of the 3 percent increase in state funding goes to meeting ongoing obligations, while one-third is devoted to "Regent's priorities." College Park gets 32 percent, whereas we represent 42 percent of the System, Kirwan added.

"Both in the charter for higher education, and in the Regents' vision statement, College Park is singled out for priority attention and funding," said Kirwan. "This plan clearly doesn't reflect the rhetoric of the 1988 mandate, nor of the Vision Three statement. That's why I feel the plan is not supportable and we'll be asking the Regents to make some adjustments."

The Board of Regents has scheduled a hearing in March at which residents and other interested parties can provide testi-

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

Outlook

Outlook is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the College Park campus community.

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Letters to the editor, story suggestions and campus information are welcome. Please submit all material at least two weeks before the Tuesday of publication. Send material to Editor, Outlook, 2101 Turner Building, through campus mail or to University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Our telephone number is (301) 405-4629. Electronic mail address is outlook@umdacc.umd.edu. Fax number is (301) 314-9344.

Calendar of Events

February 13-22

Tuesday, February 13

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

School of Music and the Africa and the Americas Lecture: "The Art Songs of Harry T. Burleigh," with soprano Regina McConnell, pianist Michael Cordovana and commentary by Doris Evans McGinty, 12:30-2 p.m., Ulrich Recital Hall, Tawes. 5-5516 or 5-6835.

Health Center Symposia: "Get Real! What's Next for Campus Health?" an interactive teleconference featuring Richard Keeling, M.D. 1-3 p.m., 2111 Stamp Student Union. 4-8128.

American Physical Society Physics Department Colloquia: "You Don't Have to Know Where the Rabbit Came From," Robert L. Park, professor of physics and director, Office of Public Affairs, 4 p.m., 1410 Physics Bldg. 5-5945.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Intermediate Unix," 6-9 p.m. 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, \$10, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Wednesday, February 14

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Film: Academy Award winning documentary "A Great Day in Harlem," noon, National Archives Auditorium at College Park. (202)501-5000.

Archival Resources Lecture: "Landmarks of P.G. County" series, noon, Room 105 National Archives. (202)501-5000.

Tamela Health Counseling Center Lecture: "Psychosocial Determinants of Success in African-American College Students," noon-1 p.m., Shoemaker Building. 4-7651.

UM System Board of Regents Public Hearing on Domestic Partner Benefits: 4-6 p.m., Potomac Lounge, University Union, Towson State, registration required to speak at the hearing. 445-8050.

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, \$10, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Thursday, February 15

Mathematics Department Lecture: "Models, Algorithms, and Computations for Superconductivity," Qiang Du, Michigan State, 9:30 a.m., 3206 Math Bldg. 5-5108.

National Archives Workshop: how to use census records for Afro-American genealogical research, Reginald Washington, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Room 410 National Archives, registration required, \$15. (202)501-6694.*

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Computer Science Seminar: "The Role of

Inertial Instability in Determining Location of Near Equatorial Convection," Peter Webster, 3:30 p.m., 2114 Computer Science Bldg. 5-5392.

Seminar: "Demography, Eugenics and the American Birth Control Movement," Carole McCann, Center on Population, Gender and Social Inequality, 3:30 p.m., 2115 Art/Sociology Building. 5-6403.

Department of Materials and Nuclear Engineering Seminar: "Biomimetic



The Harp Consort, directed by harp soloist Andrew Lawrence-King, will bring "Luz y Norte" to Annunciation Church in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by The Concert Society at Maryland.

Processing of Ceramic Polymer Composites," Otto Wilson, 4 p.m., 2110 Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Building. 5-5208.

UM System Board of Regents Public Hearing on Domestic Partner Benefits: 4-6 p.m., Grand Ball Room, Stamp Student Union, registration required to speak at the hearing. 445-8050.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to HTML," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, \$10, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Friday, February 16

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Published Women Luncheon Speaker: Robyn Muncy, History, 12-1 p.m., co-sponsored by AAUW and Maryland Club, Carriage House, Rossborough Inn, \$10. For reservations 4-8013.*

Saturday, February 17

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

School of Music Concert Series: "Happy Birthday Mozart," 8 p.m., Ulrich Recital Hall, \$16, \$12 for senior citizens, \$10 for students. 5-1150.*

University of Maryland Gospel Choir Concert: 8 p.m., Memorial Chapel. 5-6835 or 5-7856.

Sunday, February 18

School of Music Concert Series: "Happy Birthday Mozart," 3 p.m., Ulrich Recital Hall, \$16, \$12 for senior citizens, \$10 for students. 5-1150.*

Monday, February 19

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to Your WAM Account," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

Tuesday, February 20

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.



National Archives Film Series: "The Tuskegee Airmen," the story of an all African-American Army Squadron, noon, National Archives Auditorium. (202)501-5000.

Physics Department Colloquium: "Bose-Einstein Condensation in a Dilute Atomic Gas," Eric Cornell, fellow, Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics and professor adjunct, University of Colorado, Boulder, 4 p.m., 1410 Physics Bldg. 5-5945.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to Microsoft Word," 6-9 p.m., 3332 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.

CPR Class: learn adult and pediatric CPR and choking skills, two night class, \$20, 3100E University Health Center, must register in advance in Room 2118 University Health Center, 4-8132.*

Wednesday, February 21

Multi-Ethnic Student Career and Job Fair: 1-3:30 p.m., Stamp Student Union. 4-7225.

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

National Archives Lecture and Booksigning: Nat Brandt will discuss "Harlem at War: The Black Experience in

WWII," noon, National Archives. (202)501-5000.

Molecular and Cell Biology Graduate Program Seminar Series: "Human Retrotransposon L1 Encodes Reverse Transcriptase and Endonuclease Activities," Jef Boeke, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, noon, 1208 Zoology-Psychology. 5-6991.

Counseling Center Lecture: "Service Learning in the University," Suzanne Mintz, noon-1 p.m., Counseling Center. 4-7651.

Multi-Ethnic Student Career and Job Fair: 1-3:30 p.m., Stamp Student Union. 4-7225.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Information Resources," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.

CPR Class: Learn adult CPR and choking skills, \$10, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Creative Writing Program Lecture: Cornelius Eady (poet) and Judith Paterson (writer) will read from their works, 8 p.m., Tortuga Room, Stamp Union. 5-3820.

Thursday, February 22

Mathematics Department Lecture: "Convergence for Mean Curvature Flows and Anisotropy," Claudio Verdi, Università di Matematica, 9:30 a.m., 3206 Math Bldg. 5-5108.

Art Exhibition: "Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Lecture and Booksigning: C.S. Harris will discuss the relationship between George Washington and abolitionist William Thornton, noon, Room 105 National Archives. (202)501-5000.

Africa and the Americas Lecture: "The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University," Thomas Battle, 2-4:45 p.m., 4113 and 4114 Hornbake Library. 5-6835 or 5-7856.

Africa and the Americas Colloquium: "Race and the Un-American Renaissance: Rethinking the Cold War Cultural History," Lloyd Brown, 3:30-5 p.m., Anne Arundel Honors Lounge. 5-6835 or 5-7856.

Department of Materials and Nuclear Engineering Seminar: "Physics of Failure in Reliability," Michael Pecht, 4 p.m., 2110 Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Building. 5-5208.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to Quattro Pro Windows," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.

CPR Class: learn adult and pediatric CPR and choking skills, two night class, \$20, 3100E University Health Center, must register in advance in Room 2118 University Health Center, 4-8132.

University Theatre: "Othello" by William Shakespeare, 8 p.m., Tawes Theatre, \$10, \$7 students and seniors. 5-2201. (V/TTY)

Calendar Guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314- or 405- respectively. Events are free and open to the public unless noted by an asterisk (*). For more information, call 314-8512.

Listings highlighted in color have been designated as Diversity Year events by the Diversity Initiative Committee.

Charles Christian Charts African-American Experience in Black Saga

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was the chronological tome, but Christian has plans for a companion piece about the urban experience of African Americans in the 100 cities with the largest black populations. "That information doesn't exist anywhere," he says.

Christian credits his mother, who passed away two years ago, with being a major force behind the book. "Mother was a strong woman, a real spiritual leader," he says. "I sometimes get teary-eyed because this was the book that she always said 'don't give it up.'" Very religious and never one to complain, Christian says his mother raised six boys "pretty much by herself. I think we all have the same warm, caring love for her. We would come home every summer just to enjoy her and listen to her. Hear her stories."

In the course of writing *Black Saga*, Christian was drawn into an equally compelling program, the annual Black Saga competition in the Prince George's County schools. "As an urban-social-population geographer, I've done a number of things with the schools, including participating in the Geography Bee," says Christian. Eventually, he got a call from a teacher at Beltsville Academic Center regarding a black achievement program "They were trying to provide the students with as much enrichment and growth potential and instill self-esteem while exposing them to people, places and events," he says.

Asked to be a mentor, Christian decided to expose the 29 young black males, grades 4-6, to the concept of geography as well as to the university and "what we do here."

"Many of these kids will probably never go to the University of Maryland," he says. "They'll think the doors are not open to them."

Christian then planned a day's worth of activities, including site visits on campus and map making. But there was still time at the end of the day. With all the

information Christian had on hand from writing *Black Saga*, the idea of a competition seemed obvious, he says. The program leaders at the schools were so enthusiastic, "they brought in lights and buzzers and made it just like 'It's Academic.'"

The competition questions were put together "at such a level that the students would enjoy themselves, rather than fail in the process," says Christian. "Kids were talking, raising their hand, really getting involved," he says.

Some of the expenses for the Black Saga competition come directly out of Christian's pocket, but he's happy to contribute. "I have empathy for the teacher and a love for the kids, seeing those lights come on for the first time and seeing that kind of enjoyment in learning," he says.

The much-degreed professor spent time as a junior high teacher in Oklahoma. The product of a small-town, small-school education, Christian attributes much of what he knows about teaching to two women: Ms. Carter and Ms. Coleman, who "began that personal kind of contact."

As for his perseverance and motivation, he looks to his farming experience as being a sure contributor. As a boy he was up at 5 a.m. each day to do his farming chores. Even today, he says, he doesn't sleep more than four or five hours a night. "If I get more than that, I feel guilty," he says. "There are so many things I could be accomplishing."

Although he doesn't do any gardening these days,



Urban social geographer Charles Christian unearths data from the mountains of books, papers and other materials in his Le Frak Hall office.

Christian hasn't given up farming in his future. "I may not do it on a large scale, but maybe live on a farm, raise a few cattle," he says.

Until that time, there is *Black Saga* the competition (which he hopes to see go statewide and then nationwide) and *Black Saga* the book. "What you're looking at is *Black Saga* becoming a household word that speaks to quality, accuracy and real stories," he says.

Christian recounts the story of the letter from "a white man who bought the book and couldn't put it down. He said he had no concept that Blacks had contributed to America and didn't know their involvement in the process."

If the book continues to sell well and educate generations, both black and white, about African-American history, Christian may get his way and *Black Saga* history will truly be a year-round learning experience.

—JENNIFER HAWES

For Your Interest

Distinguished Service Rewarded

The International Affairs Committee is soliciting nominations for the sixth annual Distinguished International Service Award, to be presented at the banquet in September. The award is designed to recognize significant contributions to the university during the past few historic decades when international programs were being developed for the first time on campus.

The main criteria for selection will be: one or more significant contributions to the development of international institutional affairs programs at the university, backed by a distinguished international career.

Nominations, which are due March 1, should be sent to: Marcus Franda, professor and director of International Affairs, 0124 Taliaferro Hall. The nomination should include a letter addressing reasons why your nominee should receive the award, as well as bio-data outlining the major accomplishments of the nominee.

Celebratory Month

Throughout February, the University Book Center is celebrating African-American History Month by offering a 20 percent discount on all African-American related titles (text-books excluded). For more details, call 314-BOOK.

Chartered Buses at Your Service

Shuttle-UM, the self-supported transit system run by UM students, is familiar to many for its commuter service, security service, Call-A-Ride and paratransit. What many may not know is that Shuttle-UM provides safe and cost-effective charter service for the entire university community.

Any department, student group or affiliated organization may charter a Shuttle Bus at a cost of \$36 per hour to go anywhere in Washington, D.C., most of Maryland and parts of Northern Virginia, at anytime. Charter buses seating 31 or 45 people are available as well as lift-equipped buses. Shuttle Bus can also assist in planning tours.

For more information about the charter service, please call 314-7271.

Bridal Dreams Come True

You're invited to attend the "most spectacular and extravagant Bridal Showcase in history" with more than 85 top local wedding exhibitors, on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Student Union.

Themed "Where Dreams Come True," the showcase features two daily fashion shows, live entertainment, floral design, cake tasting samples, balloon decorations, complimentary bridal magazines and wedding planning seminars. In addition there

will be daily grand prize giveaways of airline tickets and other valuable door prizes.

Advance tickets cost \$5 per person at Ticket Master and the Student Union Ticket Office. Tickets sold the day of the show cost \$7.50.

For more information, call Randi Dutch, chairperson, at 314-8012.

Mini Craft Fair

The February Mini Craft Fair takes place through Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the Tortuga Room of the Student Union. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, crafters will be displaying a selection of fine handcrafted items such as jewelry; wool sweaters; tapestries; soaps and beauty items; candles, oils and potpourri. Admission is free.

For more information call 314-9814.

China's People, Food and Energy

"Population, Food and Energy in China: Future Projections and Global Implications," is the topic of the 17th China Regional Seminar on Thursday, March 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Fort McHenry Room of the University College Inn and Conference Center. Lester Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute will lead the discussion, assisted by panelists T.C. Tso, president of the Institute of International Development and Education in Agriculture and Life

Science, and Wang Zengrong, minister-counselor for science and technology, Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

For more information, please call Li-Ju Hong at 405-4312.

Assisting with English

The Maryland English Institute (MEI) is seeking two teaching assistants to help a MEI English teacher at POSTECH, a science and technology university in Pohang, Korea. The TA's will help Korean students learn English by interacting with them on a daily basis, both in and out of the classroom. No academic credit will be rewarded, but the assistants will be paid \$1,250.

Application deadline is March 15. For further information, call 314-7746 or stop by the Study Abroad Office, 3125 Mitchell Bldg.

Five Dancers, Eight Musicians

On Friday, Feb. 23 in the Dorothy Madden Theater, Alvin Mayes will present a program of music and dance featuring five dancers and eight musicians celebrating African-American History Month. Paul Jackson of the dance faculty will be technical director for the 8 p.m. program. Tickets are \$5 general reserved and \$2 for students.

For ticket reservations call 405-3198.